A DECREE OF Starre-Chamber:

Concerning Inmates, and diuided Tenements, in London or three miles about:

Made the fourteenth of February last past. 1636.

Imprinted at London by *Robert Barker*, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Maiesty: And by the Assignes of *Iohn Bill*, 1636.

HONI SOIT QVI MAL Y PENSE
DIEV ET MON DROIT

In Camera Stellata coram Concilio ibidem, decimo quarto die Februarij, Anno duodecimo CAROLI Regis.

THis day was produced in Court a Decree, drawne and penned, by the aduice of the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper, the Lord Priuy Seale, the two Lords chiefe Iuſtices, the Lord chiefe Baron, and the reſt of the Iudges of His MAIESTIES Courts of Kings Bench, Common Pleas, and Court of Exchequer, touching Inmates, and diuided Tenements, and the ſame being read in Court, and well liked

of by all the Honourable presence there sitting, the said Decree was directed and ordered to be here recorded: and to the end the same may be publike, and that euery one whom it may concerne may take notice thereof; The Court hath now also ordered, that the said Decree shall be speedily Printed, and that the same be sent to His MAIESTIES *Printer for that purpose.*

In Camera Stellata coram Concilio ibidem, decimo quarto die *Februarij*, *Anno duodecimo* CAROLI Regis.

WHereas by a Decree made in this Honourable Court, the twentieth day of October, in the fourtieth yeare of the Reigne of our late Souereigne Lady Queene ELIZABETH, vpon the information of Her Maiesties then Attourney generall, against *Rice Griffith*,

40 Eliz. Hil.

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Griffith, and *Iohn Scrips*, (who contrary to the Proclamation publiſhed and ſet out the ſeuenth day of Iuly, in the two and twentieth yeare of Her Maieſties Reigne, had erected and built Tenements, and diuided them into ſeuerall Roomes, wherein diuers poore Tenants dwelt, that liued and were maintained by the reliefe of the Parith, and begged abroad in other places) the ſaid offenders were ſentenced. And as for the pulling down or reforming of any Houſe new built or diuided contrary to the ſaid Proclamation within the Citie of London,

or the compasse of three miles thereof, (in which any poore or impotent persons then did, or thereafter should dwell or abide) for that if the same houses should bee pulled downe, destroyed or reformed, other habitations must bee prouided for them at the charge of the Parishes where they were or should be dwelling; The Court did thinke fit to forbeare and respite the doing thereof, but did order and adiudge, that all and euery such poore and impotent persons, which did or should dwell and inhabite in any new buildings or diuided tenements, erected and diuided con-

trary to the effect and intent of her Highnes said Proclamation, and were or should in any wise be driuen to liue by begging, or to bee releeued by almes within the Citie of London, or any other place within the compasse of three miles thereof, should, and might, during the time of his or their life or liues, abide and dwell in the same, without giuing or paying any manner of rent, seruice, or other recompence vnto the Landlords or any other, for, or in respect of the same, and not bee thence remooued, vnlesse they should after become able to liue of themselues; and that the

said

ſaid Landlord, Owner, or any other that claimed intereſt, to, or for any rent or rents, growing, ariſing, or payable for any of the ſaid new buildings, or diuided Tenements ſo inhabited, or to be inhabited with poore people as aforeſaid, ſhould be enioyned, and vpon that ſentence and Decree take ſufficient notice and warning, that he or they ſhould not implead, incumber, diſquiet, or moleſt any of the ſaid poore Tenants, for any Rents, Couenants, Conditions, Promiſes, or Agreements, touching, or in any wiſe concerning the ſaid Tenements, new buildings, or any of them,

Notice not to ſerue.

them, for the leuying, or recouering of any rent, seruice, or other consideration in liew of any rent.

And for that the new buildings and diuisions of sundry houses within the Citie of London and three miles compasse thereof, contrary to the tenour of the said Proclamation, had beene, and was occasion of great charges vnto the Parishes of the said Citie and Precinct aforesaid, whereby the said Parishes were still ouermuch burdened with poore and impotent persons; It was therefore ordered and decreed, that all such Landlords,

or Owners of such buildings or diuisions, wheresoeuer they should dwell, should contribute and giue such like ratable and reasonable allowance with the said Parishioners, where such buildings and diuisions were, towards the finding and maintaining of the poore of the Parish, in which such buildings were, or should bee erected or diuided, contrary to the said Proclamation, as should bee apportioned and allotted him or them to pay, if hee or they were dwelling in the said parish.

And it was further ordered and decreed, that after the death

or departure of such poore people, as did, or should inhabit the same houses or diuided Tenements aforesaid, the houses thereby being become voide; Then the Lord Maior, and Iustices of Peace neere unto the Citie adioyning, thereby were commanded to reforme the said diuided Tenements, and to prostrate, pull downe, and deface the said new buildings in such sort as the same should be no more fit for habitation, and the timber and wood thereof to be conuerted and disposed in such manner, as by the said Proclamation is required, as also to take order in all other the

premiſes, That the ſaid Decree ſhould bee duely obſerued and kept, and if any ſhould be obſtinate, then to binde ſuch Landlords as ſhould obſtinately and wilfully diſobey the ſaid Decree, to appeare in this Honourable Court, to anſwere their contempt therein.

And whereas the nine and twentieth of Nouember, in the ſeuenth yeare of the Reigne of King IAMES of bleſſed memorie, this honourable Court did decree and order; That the ſaid Decree taken the twentieth day of October in the ſaid fourtieth yeare of the ſaid late Queene, ſhould

should be presently, and from time to time thereafter more seuerely looked into, and put in execution, And his Maiesties learned Counsel, and also the Lord Maior and Aldermen of London, together with all Iustices of Peace, and other his Maiesties Officers whatsoeuer, which the same may any way concerne, were straitly charged and required, that they, and euery of them, should from time to time thereafter diligently and strictly cause, and see the said Decree to be in all points duely obserued and put in execution, and timely to make certificate to

this honourable Court of their proceedings therein, and of such persons as they should finde to offend in that behalfe, whereupon this Court did purpose to proceed against them for their contempts with very seuere punishment. Since which time sundry other Proclamations, as well in the time of the said late King IAMES, as of His Maiestie that now is, haue been published and set out against the said offences, and many exemplarie sentences in this honourable Court haue been pronounced against offenders in that behalfe, and many houses and

buildings erected against the ſaid Proclamation haue beene demoliſhed and pulled down. And yet neuertheleſſe, ſuch hath been the diſobedience and contempt of great multitudes, aiming onely at their own gain, whatſoeuer perill or inconuenience might happen to the Publique, that the new buildings and diuiding of Tenements haue dayly more and more increaſed, and ſuch numbers of poore diſſolute and lewd perſons are therin harboured, that in many pariſhes within the limits and precincts aforeſaid, there are farre more houſholds and families

that liue by begging, and other vnlawfull wayes, and by reliefe and almes of the parish, then are in the same parish to liue by their own meanes and vocation; So as the burthen is growen so heauy to many of the said parishes, that the wealthy are not able to relieue the poore in time of health, much lesse in time of sickneſſe or Infection, as hath appeared in the late visitation of the plague, wherein such multitudes of those poore & miserable houſholds haue beene infected, and their neceſsities growne to that extremity, that the officers of the parish haue not been able to

poore.

keepe them within their houſes, but the ſicke and infected haue gone among the whole, and great ſwarmes of indigent and poore people, and many of them infected with the ſickneſſe, haue, maugre all authoritie and command of the officers, flocked in troupes in the principall ſtreets of the citie and ſuburbs of London, whereby the Infection of the plague hath been much the more diſperſed, not only in the ſaid citie and places adiacent; but into many other parts of the kingdome: Beſides, it is apparantly found out, that thoſe multitudes of new buildings and diuided

Tenements, doe draw into the ſaid citie, and parts adioyning, from all parts of the kingdome, great numbers (idle, looſe and diſſolute perſons) who are harboured in thoſe obſcure and meane houſes, and hauing no lawfull trade or vocation, doe begge, and alſo commit Pilferies, Colenages, and infinite diſorders to enable them to pay their Landlords rents: And many of the Owners and Landlords of ſuch Tenements, of purpoſe for raiſing of exceſsiue rents to themſelues out of their houſes and Tenements, doe let, and parcell them out to ſuch idle, looſe,

and ill disposed persons, though they know them to bee of that condition, in regard they will giue greater rents then a poore labouring man is able to doe, and vse all shifts and vnlawfull meanes to pay it. All which enormities and many more, hauing, vpon Suruey lately taken, more euidently appeared then in former time.

This Court for reformation thereof, doth now againe order and decree, that the said seuerall Decrees made in the fortieth yeere of the said late Queene ELIZABETH, and the seauenth yeare of the said late King

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IAMES,

IAMES, with such additions and alterations as hereafter ensue, be seuerely and strictly executed. And forasmuch as it appeareth not onely by the said Decrees, but by the generall resolution of all the Reuerend Iudges of the Realme (whom His Maiestie out of His great care of the Publique, hath lately commanded to assemble) that the erecting of new buildings within the limits before mentioned, and the diuiding of greater houses into pety tenements and habitations, and pestering and filling the same with Inmates, or with Inhabitants of such euill con-

condition as aforesaid, is a most vnsufferable annoyance against the Publique, and consequently is against the Common law of the Realme; And that not only the said euill conditioned Inhabitants, but such by whom, or by whose meanes they are placed there, or who receiue the rents of such Inhabitants, are guiltie of a Common Nusance; and also that such Landlords or Owners of such houses or tenements, which haue or do receiue the rents of such poore Inhabitants, may by law be taxed towards the reliefe of the poore of the said Parish, though they

they dwell out of the parish. This Court holdeth it meet, that since the offendors haue not taken warning by two such solemne Decrees made in this Court, they should now be proceeded against with more rigor and seuerity, and not bee suffered any longer to make vnreasonable gain and profit to themselues by so great a wrong and generall grieuance. And therefore this Court doth order and decree, aswell in execution of the said former Decrees, and pursuance of the said resolution of the Iudges, that where any houses formerly built within the limits

aforesaid haue been diuided into seuerall habitations or dwellings, within the space of seuen yeares now last past, contrary to any former Proclamation or Decree in that behalfe, the same within the space of one yeare next ensuing shall be restored into their former estate, so as there shall be no more habitations or dwellings then were before the said diuisions. And that all and euery person and persons estated or interessed in the same, either of inheritance or of any lesser estate, shall before the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord now next ensuing, vpon order or com-

command of the Lord Maior, or some Iustice of peace of the Citie of London, or of the Alderman of the Ward, or his Deputie, (if the said Tenements be within the said City or the liberties thereof) or of some Iustice of peace neere to the place (if the said houses be out of the liberties of the Citie) enter into bond of a competent penalty, to obserue and performe this order in that behalfe; the said Bond to be taken in the names of some honest and sufficient persons of the parish where such Tenements are, to the vse of the said parish.

And it is further ordered and

Any Houſe

decreed, that where any houſes, within the limits aforeſaid, haue been erected or built within the ſaid ſpace of ſeuen yeares, or being formerly erected or built, haue within the ſaid ſpace of ſeuen yeares beene diuided; and are imployed for the habitation of indigent and poore people, chargeable to the Pariſh wherin the ſaid houſes are, that in every ſuch Caſe, all and every perſon and perſons eſtated, or intereſſed in the ſaid houſes or Tenements of eſtate of inheritance, or any leſſer eſtate, and which haue receiued the rents, iſſues, and profits thereof, of, and from

7 years

ſuch

such poore Inhabitants, shall by vertue of this Order and Decree, be bound each of them respectiuely for their time, to restore and repay to the Ouerseers of the poore of the Parish, wherein the said houses be, all such summes of money as haue beene disbursed by the Parish, for the reliefe of the Inhabitants in the said houses in sickenesse or health, or for any other charge, wherewith such Parishes haue been burthened, since the feast of *Pentecost* last past, by reason of such Inhabitants; And shall also before the feast of the *Ascension* of our Lord now next ensuing,

Restitution to the Parish &c.

suing, vpon order or command of the Lord Maior or some Iustice of Peace of the Citie, or the Alderman of the ward, or his Deputie (if the Tenements bee within the Citie, or Liberties thereof) or of some Iustice of Peace neere the place (if the said houses bee out of the Liberties of the Citie) enter into bond of a competent penaltie, to bee taken in the name of some honest and sufficient men of the parish, where such Tenements bee, to the vse of the said parish; to saue and keepe harmelesse the parishes wherein the said houses be, for, & during such their seuerall

estates or interests, respectiuely, from all charges and expences any way touching or concerning the maintaining, keeping, or releeuing of the Inhabitants which by, or vnder them, or any of them haue beene, or shall be placed in the said houses, habitations, or dwellings.

And that where any Inmates within the said space of seuen yeares last past haue beene placed in any houses or tenements within the limits aforesaid, and are there continued, the same Inmates within the space of one yeare next ensuing, shall be remooued by the persons interessed

ſed and eſtated in the ſaid houſes or Tenements, hauing power by reaſon of their eſtates, to remooue them ſo, as by the end of one yeare now next enſuing, there ſhall be no more families then one abiding in any of the ſaid houſes.

And that all and euery ſuch perſon and perſons, as are, or ſhall be eſtated, or intereſſed in the ſaid houſes, as aforeſaid, and to whom the rents, iſſues, or profits of the ſaid houſes, are, or ſhall be payable, or anſwerable, ſhall vpon order or command of the Lord Maior, or ſome Iuſtice of Peace of the Citie, or the Alder-

men

man of the ward, or his Deputie (if the said Tenements bee within the Citie of London, or Liberties thereof) or of some Iustice of Peace neere the place (if the said houses be out of the Liberties) enter into bond of a competent penaltie (with sufficient sureties, if it shall be required) to performe this part of this present Order and Decree; such bond to bee taken in the name of some honest person or persons for the vse of the parish.

And it is further ordered and decreed, that all such persons, as are, or shall be estated, or interessed in any houses diui-

ded aboue ſeuen yeares laſt paſt, Contrary to any Proclamation or Decree of this Honourable Court in that behalfe, of an eſtate of inheritance, or any leſſer eſtate, which haue receiued, or hereafter ſhall receiue the rents, or profits thereof from the inhabitants, ſhall at their perill take a courſe, if they haue power by reaſon of their eſtates ſo to doe, that the ſame houſes bee reſtored to their former condition and number of houſes, and no more then were before the diuiding thereof, within the ſpace of three yeares now next enſuing; And alſo that all

ſuch houſes which haue beene either built or diuided, contrary to any ſuch Proclamation or Decree as aforeſaid, within the limits aforeſaid, before, or aboue ſeuen yeares laſt paſt, and are imployed for the habitation of indigent and poore people, who are chargeable to the pariſh, where thoſe houſes are; That in euery ſuch Caſe all, and euery perſon and perſons eſtated or intereſſed in the ſaid houſes or tenements of eſtate of Inheritance, or any leſſer eſtate, and hauing receiued the rents, iſſues and profits thereof, of, and from the inhabitants, ſhall by vertue of

this Order and Decree, euery one for their ſeuerall time, bee bound to reſtore and repay to the ouerſeers of the poore of the pariſh wherein the ſaid houſes be, all ſuch ſummes of money as haue been diſburſed by the pariſh, for the reliefe of the Inhabitants of the ſaid houſes in ſickneſſe or health, or for any other charge wherewith ſuch pariſhes haue been burthened, ſince the Feaſt of *Pentecoſt* laſt paſt, by reaſon of ſuch Inhabitants, and ſhall alſo before the ſaid Feaſt of the *Aſcenſion* of our Lord God next enſuing, vpon order or command of the

Lord

Lord Maior, or ſome Iuſtice of peace of the ſaid Citie, or the Alderman of the VVard, or his Deputie (if the ſaid Tenenements be within the Citie of London, or liberties thereof) or of ſome Iuſtice of peace neer the place (if the ſaid houſes be out of the liberties) enter into bond of a competent penaltie, with ſufficient ſureties, if it ſhall be required, to ſaue and keepe harmeleſſe the pariſh from all charges and expences, any way touching or concerning the maintaining, keeping, or relieuing the Inhabitants, which by, or vnder them, or any of them haue been

Bond.

or ſhal be placed in the ſaid houſes, habitations or dwellings; The ſaid Bond to bee taken in the name of ſome honeſt perſon or perſons for the vſe of the pariſh.

And it is further ordered, and decreed, that beſides all the paiments, charges and burthens aforeſaid, to bee paide, done or performed by the ſaid Landlords or Owners, in eaſe of the Pariſh, for, or in reſpect of their owne Tenants, They, and euery of them, ſhall contribute and giue ſuch like ratable and reaſonable allowance with the ſaid Pariſhioners, where ſuch buildings

ings or diuiſions are towards the finding and maintaining of the reſt of the poore of the ſaid pariſh, as ſhould bee apportioned, taxed, aſſeſſed, or allotted for him, or them to pay, if he, or they were dwelling in the ſaid pariſh, and were not charged towards the reliefe or maintenance of his, or their owne vnder-tenants, as is aforeſaid.

And this Court doth further Order and Decree, that if any perſon or perſons ſhall hereafter new build, or diuide any Tenements within the limits aforeſaid, contrary to this Decree, or the ſaid former Decrees, made in this

this Court, or the ſeuerall Proclamations heretofore publiſhed in that behalfe, or ſhall place any ſuch poore, or indigent people in any ſuch Tenements heretofore built or diuided, or hereafter to be built or diuided, or receiue any Inmates into the ſame, that then the perſon, or perſons ſo offending ſhall bee by order or command of the Lord Maior, or ſome Iuſtice of peace of the ſaid Citie of London, or the Alderman of the Ward, or his Deputy, (if the Tenements ſhall happen to be within the ſaid Citie, or the liberties thereof) or of ſome Iuſtice of peace neere the

the place (if the Tenements shall bee without the liberties) enter into bond of a competent penaltie, with sureties to some honest person or persons, to the vse of the parish in which the Tenements shall be, within one moneth next after the date of such Bond, to pull downe such new erected Tenements, or to reforme or restore such diuided Tenements to their former condition, or to remoue such indigent people and Inmates placed therein, as the case shall happen to bee. And that all and euery person and persons, that shall hereafter receiue any Rents, Is-

ſues, or profits, of or from any ſuch poore or indigent people inhabiting in any ſuch Tenement heretofore built or diuided, or hereafter to bee built or diuided, ſhall beare, and pay all charges and expences which the Pariſh ſhall ſuſtaine or bee put to, for, or by reaſon of any ſuch poore and indigent people inhabiting within the Pariſh, and ſhall likewiſe bee rated and aſſeſſed to pay, and are hereby alſo ordered and decreed to pay their ratable ſhare and proportion, with the Inhabitants of the pariſh, for and towards the relieſe of the poore of ſuch

parish, as if the person or persons receiuing rents or profits from such poore and indigent Inhabitants were dwelling within the parish.

And it is further ordered, that if any person or persons, shall refuse or make default to satisfie or pay any the payments or charges aforesaid, or to performe any part of this Order, That then proces of Attachment out of this Court shall be awarded against him or them, with such further proces of contempt, and imprisonment, and are vsuall against the breakers or contemners of the Decrees or Orders of

this Court, and before his enlargement shall giue securitie by bond as aforesaid, and satisfie and pay all such summes of money, as hee or they should or ought to pay, with double costs to the prosecutor or prosecutors, for all the charges they shall sustaine in prosecution of the said contempts.

THE

Liberty of the Subject

BY

Magna Charta:

OR,

Several weighty things to be considered of by the Jurors and Judges, seeing the Law of *ENGLAND* is said to be a Law of Mercy, and doth take care that Jurors be of the next Neighbourhood, most sufficient Men, and Persons that are least suspicious: And that Judges and Ministers of Justice are to do even Law and Execution of Right to all Men, rich and poor, without respect of persons.

And,

That *MAGNA CHARTA*, and the Charter of the Forrest are to be allowed in all their points; and that if any Judgement be given contrary to the Points of the Charters by any of the Kings Ministers of Justice, it is to be undone and holden for naught. 25. *Ed.* 1. *c.* 1. 2.

Likewise,

No man is to be put to answer without presentment before Justices, or matter of Record by due process, or by Writ Original, according to the old Law of the Land, and if any thing be done to the contrary it shall be void in Law, and holden for errour. 42 *Ed.* 3. *cap.* 3.

Written in the 6th. Month, 1664.